Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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E.O. 11652 GDS TAGS: PFOR, CE, KS

SUBJ: ROK MOFA OFFICIAL ON STATUS OF GSL-ROK RELATIONS

REF:SEOUL 2076

- 1. IN VISIT TO EMBASSY APRIL 3, MOFA ASIA BUREAU DIRECTOR O CHAE-HUI EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT AT DIMINISHED PROSPECTS IN NEAR FUTURE FOR RAISING GSL-REPUBLIC OF KOREA (ROK) RELATIONS TO DIPLOMATIC LEVEL. O REVIEWED HISTORY OF GSL-ROK RELATIONSHIP DURING PAST 10 YEARS AND CONVEYED IMPRESSION THAT ROK WAS BECOMING IMPATIENT WITH GSL IN WAKE GSL'S DECISION TO RESUME TIES WITH NORTH KOREA. O CONCLUDED REMARKS BY MAKING CLEAR ROK BELIEVES ANY PROGRESS TOWARD FULL TIES AWAITS GSL INITIATIVE.
- 2. EMBOFF TOLD O THAT CURRENT SRI LANKA POLITICAL SITUATION WAS FLUID AND POSSIBLITY FOR SHIFT EITHER TO RIGHT OR TO LEFT COULD NOT BE RULED OUT. ANURA BANDARANAIKE'S VISIT TO PYONGYANG AND PRC MAY REFLECT PRIME MINISTER'S DESIRE TO PROMOTE BROADEST POSSIBLE DIPLOMATIC EFFORT BEFORE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR COLOMBO MID-1976. PRIME MINISTER'S CHOICE FOR TRIP OF SON ANURA, WHO ENJOYS SUPPORT AMONG MODERATES OF UNITED FRONT COALITION, MAY ALSO REFLECT HER INTENTION TO PURSUE MIDDLE-OF-THE-ROAD CONFIDENTIAL

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COURSE TO FULLEST EXTENT POSSIBLE WHILE ACCOMMODATING

LEFT-WING PRESSURE TO RESTORE TIES WITH NORTH KOREA.
EMBOFF SUGGESTED TO O THAT ROK MIGHT BE WELL ADVISED TO
MAINTAIN LOW PROFILE PENDING GSL DECISION ON CHANGE OF
RESIDENT AMBASSADORS WITH NORTH KOREA NEXT YEAR.

3. COMMENT: O DEMONSTRATED RATHER LIMITED KNOWLEDGE OF CURRENT SRI LANKA POLITICAL SITUATION AND IN PARTICULAR SEEMED UNAWARE OF STRENGTH OF LEFT-WING REPRESENTATION IN CABINET.

VAN HOLLEN

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